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Your Turn

Write an essay about your hometown. Tell why people should move there. Think about your audience. Choose ideas that will appeal to them. Include topic sentences and transition words. Use the writer's checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- ☒ **Ideas and Content:** Did I choose the best details to present to my audience?
- ☐ **Organization:** Does each **paragraph** start with a topic sentence and include supporting details?
- ☒ **Voice:** Do I sound sincere and believe what I say?
- ☒ **Word Choice:** Did I choose words that are persuasive?
- ☒ **Sentence Fluency:** Can the reader move smoothly from sentence to sentence?
- ☒ **Conventions:** Did I check to be sure all of the plural nouns are spelled correctly? Did I make sure possessive nouns have apostrophes?





Talk About It

What do you know about cowboys and cowgirls? What kinds of skills do you need to be a cowboy or cowgirl?



Find out more about cowboys and cowgirls at www.macmillanmh.com

COWBOYS & COWGIRLS

Vocabulary

vastness	presence
enthusiasm	swerved
horizon	flickered
ravine	suspended



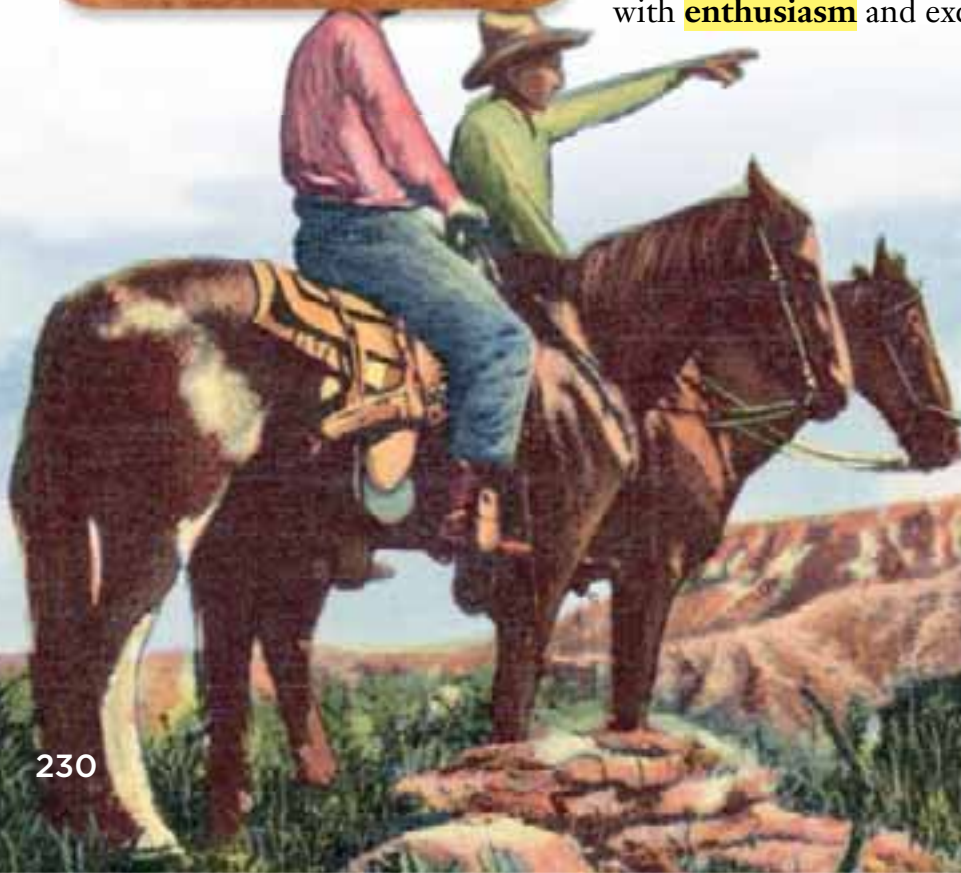
Analogies

Analogies compare two pairs of words. Sometimes analogies use *antonyms*, words with opposite or nearly opposite meanings. For example, *presence* is to *absence* as *strong* is to *weak*.

The LIFE of a COWBOY

by Nancy Vilelli

The cowboy lifestyle became popular in America in the middle 1800s. One group that affected the rise of the professional American cowboy was the *vaqueros* (vah KAYR ohs). Vaqueros were cattle workers from Mexico. They knew how to keep animals together in the **vastness** of wide, open countryside. The American cowboys were eager to learn this ability. They accepted the vaqueros' ways with **enthusiasm** and excitement.



Soon cattle ranches sprang up from Texas to the Dakotas. It was hard work to keep track of hundreds of cows. Cows spread out as far as the **horizon**, where land meets the sky. No fences held them in. The cowboys rode their horses for miles every day to watch over the cattle.

There were many dangers in the open fields. A cow could fall into a **ravine** and hurt itself in the deep, narrow valley. Or a cow could be frightened by the **presence** of another animal that is nearby. One frightened cow can cause a stampede.

When spring came the cattle were rounded up to be counted. Afterwards the cowboys would move the cattle across the plains during the summer. Cowboys would ride inside the herd. They **swerved** as they rode, turning in and out, to move the cattle in the right direction.

A cowboy's job was tiring, so he would need a good place to set up camp, eat, and rest. After the cook fixed dinner, cowboys



would sit around a campfire that **flickered** unsteadily whenever a gust of wind blew by. Like the vaqueros, they would tell stories or sing songs. Eventually, all but one would fall asleep as the moon hung **suspended** in the huge, dark sky. As with vaqueros' tradition, one cowboy always remained awake because the safety of the herd came first.

Reread for Comprehension



Monitor Comprehension

Make Inferences

To make inferences, you take clues from the story and combine them with information you already know. This will help you monitor your comprehension, or understanding, of the story. Use your Inferences Chart as you reread "The Life of a Cowboy" to make inferences about the personality traits a successful cowboy would need.

Text Clues	What You Know	Inferences

Comprehension

Genre

Biography is an account of an actual person's life told by another person.



Monitor Comprehension

Make Inferences

As you read, use your Inferences Chart.

Text Clues	What You Know	Inferences

Read to Find Out

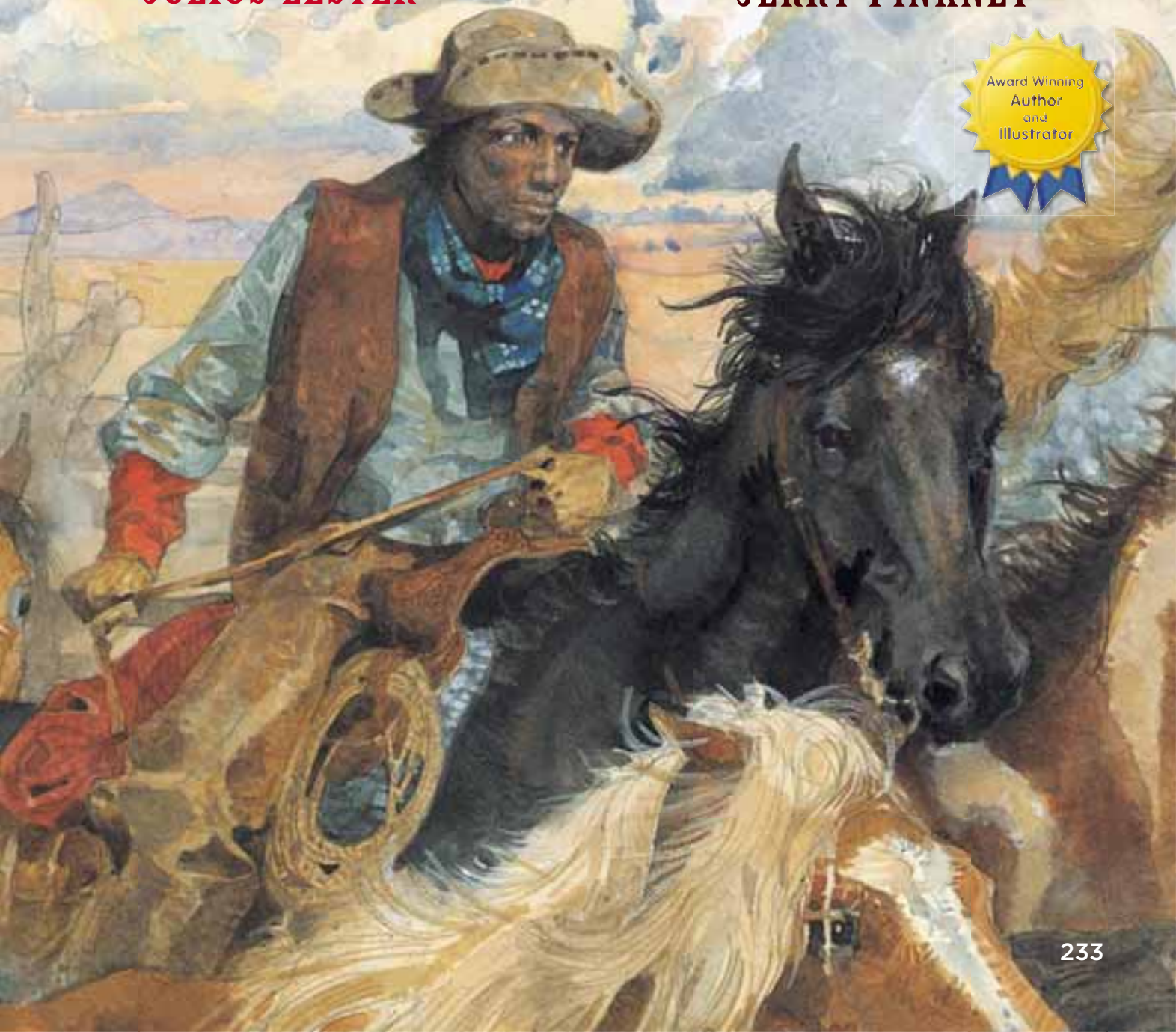
What does it take to be a real cowboy?

BLACK COWBOY WILD HORSES

A TRUE STORY

BY
JULIUS LESTER

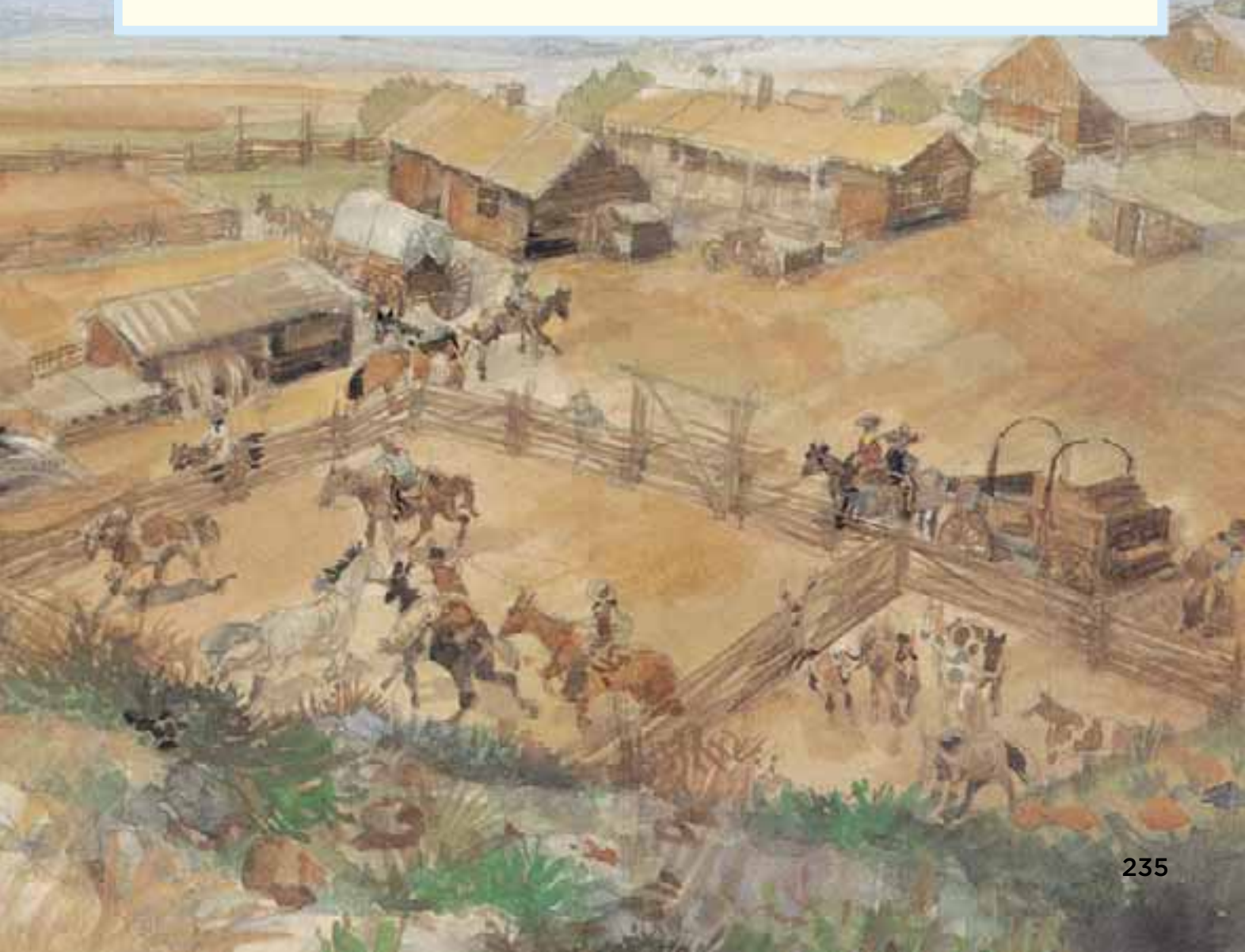
ILLUSTRATED BY
JERRY PINKNEY





FIRST LIGHT. Bob Lemmons rode his horse slowly up the rise. When he reached the top, he stopped at the edge of the bluff. He looked down at the corral where the other cowboys were beginning the morning chores, then turned away and stared at the land stretching as wide as love in every direction. The sky was curved as if it were a lap on which the earth lay napping like a curled cat. High above, a hawk was **suspended** on cold threads of unseen winds. Far, far away, at what looked to be the edge of the world, land and sky kissed.

He guided Warrior, his black stallion, slowly down the bluff. When they reached the bottom, the horse reared, eager to run across the **vastness** of the plains until he reached forever. Bob smiled and patted him gently on the neck. “Easy. Easy,” he whispered. “We’ll have time for that. But not yet.”







He let the horse trot for a while, then slowed him and began peering intently at the ground as if looking for the answer to a question he scarcely understood.

It was late afternoon when he saw them—hoofprints of mustangs, the wild horses that lived on the plains. He stopped, dismounted and walked around carefully until he had seen all the prints. Then he got down on his hands and knees to examine them more closely.

Some people learned from books. Bob had been a slave and never learned to read words. But he could look at the ground and read what animals had walked on it, their size and weight, when they had passed by, and where they were going. No one he knew could bring in mustangs by themselves, but Bob could make horses think he was one of them—because he was.

He stood, reached into his saddlebag, took out an apple, and gave it to Warrior, who chewed with noisy **enthusiasm**. It was a herd of eight mares, a colt, and a stallion. They had passed there two days ago. He would see them soon. But he needed to smell of sun, moon, stars, and wind before the mustangs would accept him.



Make Inferences

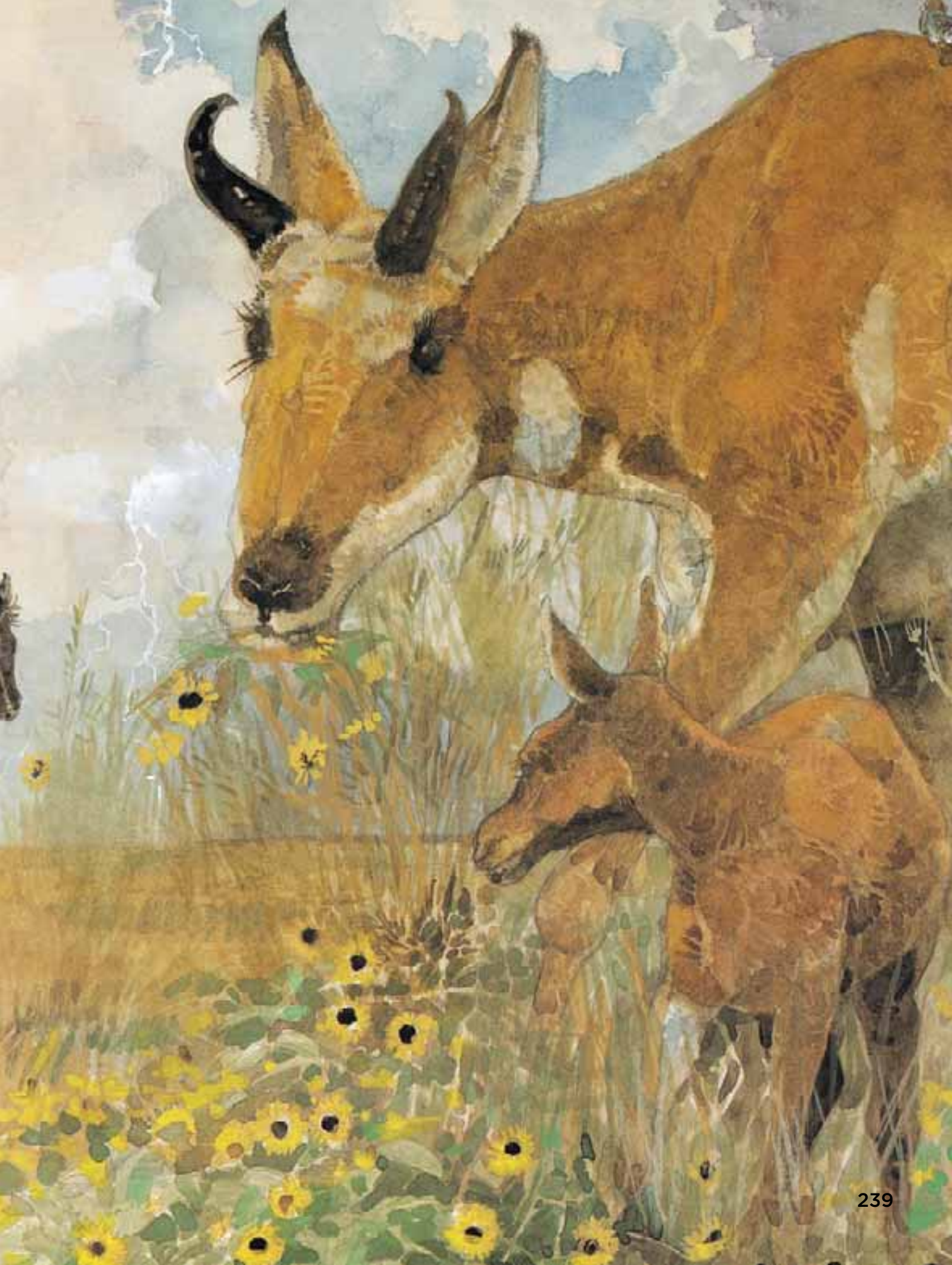
What clues in the story help you know when it takes place?

The sun went down and the chilly night air came quickly. Bob took the saddle, saddlebag, and blanket off Warrior. He was cold, but could not make a fire. The mustangs would smell the smoke in his clothes from miles away. He draped a thick blanket around himself, then took the cotton sack of dried fruit, beef jerky, and nuts from his saddlebag and ate. When he was done, he lay his head on his saddle and was quickly asleep. Warrior grazed in the tall, sweet grasses.

As soon as the sun's round shoulders came over the **horizon**, Bob awoke. He ate, filled his canteen, and saddling Warrior, rode away. All day he followed the tracks without hurrying.

Near dusk, clouds appeared, piled atop each other like mountains made of fear. Lightning **flickered** from within them like candle flames shivering in a breeze. Bob heard the faint but distinct rumbling of thunder. Suddenly lightning vaulted from cloud to cloud across the curved heavens.









Warrior reared, his front hooves pawing as if trying to knock the white streaks of fire from the night sky. Bob raced Warrior to a nearby **ravine** as the sky exploded sheets of light. And there, in the distance, beneath the ghostly light, Bob saw the herd of mustangs. As if sensing their **presence**, Warrior rose into the air once again, this time not challenging the heavens but almost in greeting. Bob thought he saw the mustang stallion rise in response as the earth shuddered from the sound of thunder.

Then the rain came as hard and stinging as remorse. Quickly Bob put on his poncho, and turning Warrior away from the wind and the rain, waited. The storm would pass soon. Or it wouldn't. There was nothing to do but wait.

Finally the rain slowed and then stopped. The clouds thinned, and there, high in the sky, the moon appeared as white as grief. Bob slept in the saddle while Warrior grazed on the wet grasses.

The sun rose into a clear sky and Bob was awake immediately. The storm would have washed away the tracks, but they had been going toward the big river. He would go there and wait.

By mid-afternoon he could see the ribbon of river shining in the distance. He stopped, needing only to be close enough to see the horses when they came to drink. Toward evening he saw a trail of rolling, dusty clouds.

In front was the mustang herd. As it reached water, the stallion slowed and stopped. He looked around, his head raised, nostrils flared, smelling the air. He turned in Bob's direction and sniffed the air again.

Bob tensed. Had he come too close too soon? If the stallion smelled anything new, he and the herd would be gone and Bob would never find them again. The stallion seemed to be looking directly at him. Bob was too far away to be seen, but he did not even blink his eyes, afraid the stallion would hear the sound. Finally the stallion began drinking and the other horses followed. Bob let his breath out slowly. He had been accepted.

The next morning he crossed the river and picked up the herd's trail. He moved Warrior slowly, without sound, without dust. Soon he saw them grazing. He stopped. The horses did not notice him. After a while he moved forward, slowly, quietly. The stallion raised his head. Bob stopped.

When the stallion went back to grazing, Bob moved forward again. All day Bob watched the herd, moving only when it moved but always coming closer. The mustangs sensed his presence. They thought he was a horse.

So did he.









The following morning Bob and Warrior walked into the herd. The stallion eyed them for a moment. Then, as if to test this newcomer, he led the herd off in a gallop. Bob lay flat across Warrior's back and moved with the herd. If anyone had been watching, they would not have noticed a man among the horses.

When the herd set out early the next day, it was moving slowly. If the horses had been going faster, it would not have happened.

The colt fell to the ground as if she had stepped into a hole and broken her leg. Bob and the horses heard the chilling sound of the rattles. Rattlesnakes didn't always give a warning before they struck. Sometimes, when someone or something came too close, they bit with the fury of fear.

The horses whinnied and pranced nervously, smelling the snake and death among them. Bob saw the rattler, as beautiful as a necklace, sliding silently through the tall grasses. He made no move to kill it. Everything in nature had the right to protect itself, especially when it was afraid.

The stallion galloped to the colt. He pushed at her. The colt struggled to get up, but fell to her side, shivering and kicking feebly with her thin legs. Quickly she was dead.



Make Inferences

What clues in the story point to the fact that Bob respects nature?

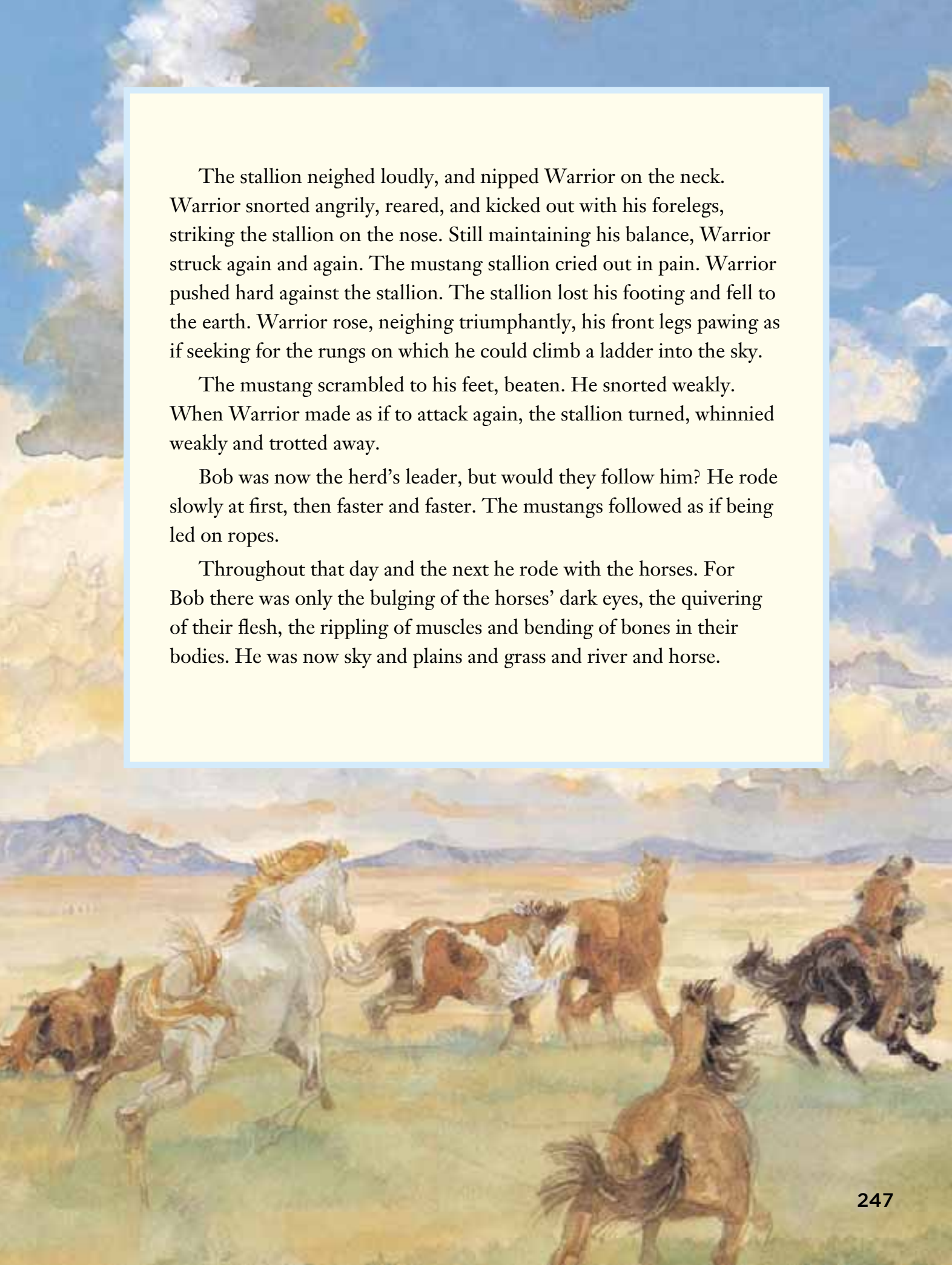
Already vultures circled high in the sky. The mustangs milled aimlessly. The colt's mother whinnied, refusing to leave the side of her colt. The stallion wanted to move the herd from there, and pushed the mare with his head. She refused to budge, and he nipped her on the rump. She skittered away. Before she could return to the colt, the stallion bit her again, this time harder. She ran toward the herd. He bit her a third time, and the herd was off. As they galloped away, Bob looked back. The vultures were descending from the sky as gracefully as dusk.

It was time to take over the herd. The stallion would not have the heart to fight fiercely so soon after the death of the colt. Bob galloped Warrior to the front and wheeled around, forcing the stallion to stop quickly. The herd, confused, slowed and stopped also.

Bob raised Warrior to stand high on his back legs, fetlocks pawing and kicking the air. The stallion's eyes widened. He snorted and pawed the ground, surprised and uncertain. Bob charged at the stallion.

Both horses rose on hind legs, teeth bared as they kicked at each other. When they came down, Bob charged Warrior at the stallion again, pushing him backward. Bob rushed yet again.





The stallion neighed loudly, and nipped Warrior on the neck. Warrior snorted angrily, reared, and kicked out with his forelegs, striking the stallion on the nose. Still maintaining his balance, Warrior struck again and again. The mustang stallion cried out in pain. Warrior pushed hard against the stallion. The stallion lost his footing and fell to the earth. Warrior rose, neighing triumphantly, his front legs pawing as if seeking for the rungs on which he could climb a ladder into the sky.

The mustang scrambled to his feet, beaten. He snorted weakly. When Warrior made as if to attack again, the stallion turned, whinnied weakly and trotted away.

Bob was now the herd's leader, but would they follow him? He rode slowly at first, then faster and faster. The mustangs followed as if being led on ropes.

Throughout that day and the next he rode with the horses. For Bob there was only the bulging of the horses' dark eyes, the quivering of their flesh, the rippling of muscles and bending of bones in their bodies. He was now sky and plains and grass and river and horse.





When his food was almost gone, Bob led the horses on one last ride, a dark surge of flesh flashing across the plains like black lightning. Toward evening he led the herd up the steep hillside, onto the bluff, and down the slope toward the big corral. The cowboys heard him coming and opened the corral gate. Bob led the herd, but at the last moment he **swerved** Warrior aside, and the mustangs flowed into the fenced enclosure. The cowboys leaped and shouted as they quickly closed the gate.

Bob rode away from them and back up to the bluff. He stopped and stared out onto the plains. Warrior reared and whinnied loudly.

“I know,” Bob whispered. “I know. Maybe someday.”

Maybe someday they would ride with the mustangs, ride to that forever place where land and sky kissed, and then ride on. Maybe someday.



RIDE ALONG WITH JULIUS LESTER AND JERRY PINKNEY



Julius Lester was a musician before he wrote books. He even recorded two albums and hosted a radio show. When an editor asked him to write a children's book, he found he loved doing it. Julius believes it is important to be the voice for people who can't tell their own stories, people like Bob Lemmons. His advice to young writers is read, read, read. He should know—he has about 15,000 books!

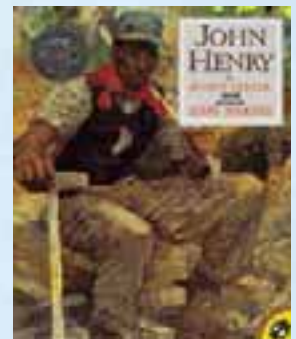
Jerry Pinkney started drawing by copying from comic books and magazines, just like his two older brothers. In junior high school, he sketched people he saw on the street. He's been drawing and painting ever since. Jerry has even drawn eleven postage stamps for the U.S. Postal Service. "I'd rather draw than do anything else!" he says.



Find out more about Julius Lester and Jerry Pinkney at www.macmillanmh.com

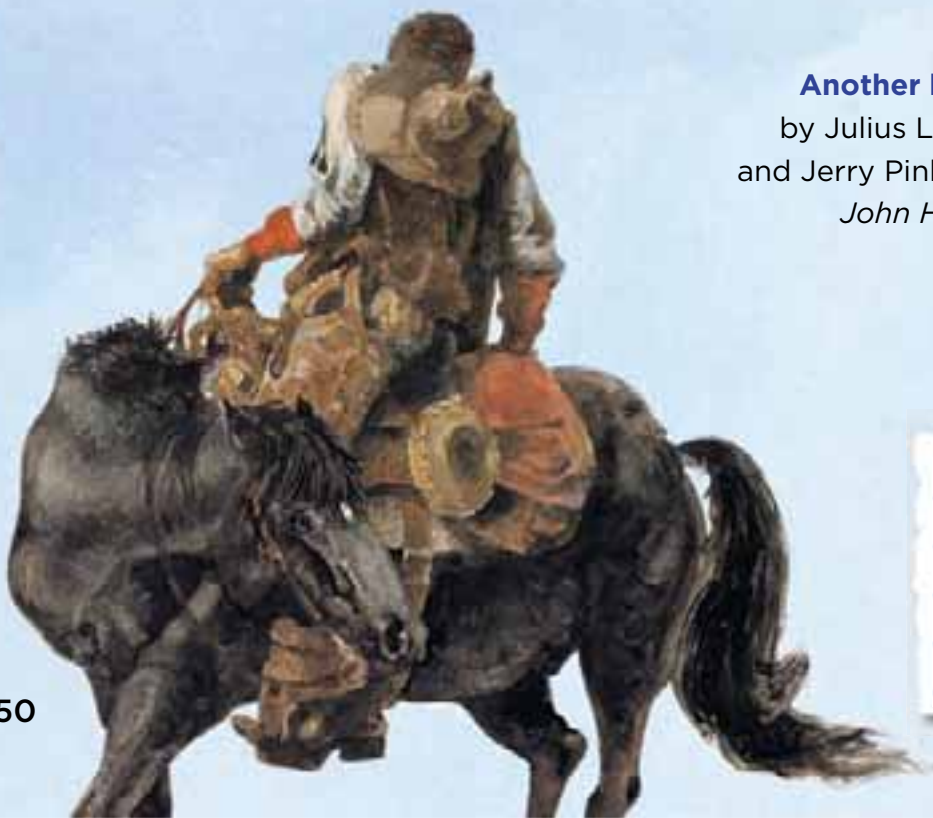
Another book

by Julius Lester
and Jerry Pinkney:
John Henry



Author's Purpose

This biography is full of adventure. Could Julius have written it for more than one purpose? Explain.





Comprehension Check



Summarize

Summarize the story of Bob Lemmons and the mustangs in *Black Cowboy, Wild Horses*. Use your Inferences Chart to help you include important information about the story.

Text Clues	What You Know	Inferences

Think and Compare



1. Warrior rears once at the beginning of the story and once at the end. What do you think Warrior is telling Bob?
Monitor Comprehension: Make Inferences
2. Reread page 235 of *Black Cowboy, Wild Horses*. Make a list of descriptive words and phrases that the author uses to describe the **vastness** of the plains. Why do you think the author begins the story by using imagery? **Analyze**
3. Would you want to ride with the wild mustangs? Explain why or why not. **Evaluate**
4. Bob says that everything in nature has a right to protect itself. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? Explain your answer. **Evaluate**
5. Reread “The Life of A Cowboy” on pages 230–231. How was Bob Lemmons’s life similar to the life described in the article? How was it different? Give specific examples using both selections. **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Poetry

Song Lyrics are the written words of a song. Long ago poems were not just recited but were often sung.

Literary Elements

Repetition occurs when a line or sequence of lines appears more than once in a selection. In a song these repeating lines are often called the *chorus*.

Assonance is the repetition of the same or similar vowel sounds in a series of words, usually with different consonant sounds. The long “o” sound in *buffalo* and *roam* is an example of assonance.

Home on the Range

words by John A. Lomax

music by Daniel Kelley

Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam,
Where the deer and the antelope play,
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word
And the skies are not cloudy all day.

Home, home on the range,
Where the deer and the antelope play
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word
And the skies are not cloudy all day.
Oh, give me a land where the bright diamond

**This line is an example
of repetition.**

sand

Flows leisurely down the stream,
Where a graceful white swan goes gliding along
Like a maid in a heavenly dream.



The short “a” sound
in *land* and *sand* is an
example of *assonance*.

Home, home on the range,
Where the deer and the antelope play
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word
And the skies are not cloudy all day.

Where the air is so pure, the zephyrs so free,
The breezes so balmy and light,
That I would not exchange my home on the range
For all the cities so bright.

Home, home on the range,
Where the deer and the antelope play
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word
And the skies are not cloudy all day.

Connect and Compare



1. What are some other examples of repeating lines or words in this song? **Repetition**
2. Read the poem aloud. How does assonance help you read the poem more smoothly? **Apply**
3. Compare “Home on the Range” to *Black Cowboy, Wild Horses*. What are some differences between the range described in the song and the land described in the story?

Reading/Writing Across Texts



Find out more about song lyrics at www.macmillanmh.com

Write a Review

Writer's Craft

Vary Sentences

Good writers use sentences that begin in a **variety** of ways. For example, they may start a sentence with an introductory clause or phrase.

Our teacher asked us to write a review of a TV show, movie, or book.

I made my review interesting by starting my sentences in different ways.

A Review of *Wrango*

by Maria D.

Wrango by Brian Burks is one of the best books I've ever read.

Based on facts, Wrango tells the story of an African-American cowboy named George McJunkin. After the Civil War ended, he and his family gained their freedom from slavery. George decided to ride the Chisholm Trail with a friend, and the two men's adventures began.

George survived a rattlesnake bite. He saved someone from drowning. Using lots of details, the author describes terrible storms, attacks from enemies, and other exciting events.

Besides telling a great story, Wrango also includes a glossary of words used by cowboys.

I urge you to read this book now!

Your Turn

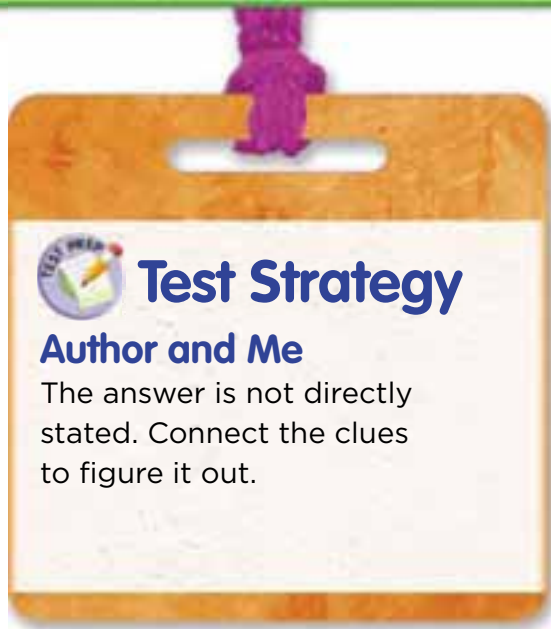
Write a review of a TV show or movie you have seen, or tell about a book you have read. State your opinion, and give examples to support it. Use variety in your sentences and word choices. Use the writer's checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- ☒ **Ideas and Content:** Did I choose to review a show, movie, or book that I feel strongly about?
- ☒ **Organization:** Does the review begin in an interesting way and hold the reader's attention throughout?
- ☒ **Voice:** Can my readers tell that I feel strongly about what I am reviewing?
- ☒ **Word Choice:** Did I choose words that bring the show, movie, or book to life for the reader?
- ☐ **Sentence Fluency:** Did I start my sentences in a **variety** of ways?
- ☒ **Conventions:** Did I use correct capitalization and punctuation? Did I check my spelling?

Answer Questions



THE STORY OF RADIO



by Jill Seidman

It's one of those discoveries that you take for granted. You probably listen to it in the car or early in the morning at home. You push a button or turn the dial, then sound fills the air. Right away you can hear the latest song or a message about a snow day at your school. That little radio is an amazing device.

How It Works

Every radio has two parts: a transmitter and a receiver. First, sound is changed into radio waves. Then, those waves are transmitted. The signals can go through solid objects like walls or trees and are turned back into sounds once they are received.

The idea behind the radio is mathematical, not musical. About 150 years ago, J.C. Maxwell discovered that radio waves were possible. People used this idea to figure out how to send radio signals. The Italian scientist Guglielmo Marconi was the first to send a radio signal across the ocean. In 1901 he sent messages between England and Canada. The first radio was more like a wireless telegraph than the radio you have today. These first messages were sounds that stood for letters, not music or talking.

Marconi's wireless radio began to signal ships at sea. The first time people heard voices and music over the radio was on December 24, 1906. A man in Massachusetts sent out a three-part broadcast. Ships picked up the signal. They heard a man speaking, then a woman singing. Finally, they heard a person playing a violin.

By the early 1920s, the first radio station, KDKA, started broadcasting in Pittsburgh. It was the first station to send out voice broadcasts. Within a few years, people eagerly bought radio sets to hear news and music. In 1930 the first broadcast was heard "around the world." Radio signals traveled from tower to tower across the globe. The golden age of radio had begun.

Vital Link During World War II

In those days radio was as important to people as television is today. In the days leading up to World War II, the President's important speeches were broadcast on the radio. The whole world tuned in to listen to the news of the war overseas. Radios became even more important once the United States joined World War II. Soldiers and sailors were able to use two-way radios to communicate with one another and get news about events happening around the world.

Radio was also a great source of entertainment then, much as television is today. Families and friends gathered around the radio to listen to music, comedy programs, quiz shows, and serious dramas. Companies that made laundry and cleaning products sponsored some of these dramas, which were called "soap operas." That's right; the first soap operas were on the radio and actually had something to do with soap.



During the golden age of radio, families frequently gathered around the radio. People would stop what they were doing to listen to a favorite program.

Answer Questions

Radio Today

By the beginning of the 1950s, television took over as the leading form of home entertainment. However, that didn't mean that people turned off their radios. Most radio stations changed their programs and focused on playing the latest news and the newest music. In the 1950s, as rock and roll became all the rage, many stations began playing only popular music. Today most stations choose a particular type of program or music. Stations specialize in rock music, country tunes, classical music, sports, or news and weather.

Your parents might have a favorite radio station that plays music from their teen years. You, on the other hand, might enjoy a different station that plays the latest hits. Push a button or turn a dial. It's easy to find something you like!



Today's households enjoy home entertainment systems.
Families can listen to the news or enjoy their favorite programs.

Tip

Connect the clues or ideas from the selection to figure out the best answer.

Directions: Answer the questions.**1. Why was radio first invented?**

- A** to send sound waves
- B** for communication
- C** to teach others to play the violin
- D** to give families time together

2. Why are radios still important today?

- A** to listen to news and music
- B** to help soldiers communicate
- C** to listen to soap operas
- D** to signal ships at sea

3. Why do many families today have more than one radio?

- A** to listen to radio ads
- B** because they want to honor Guglielmo Marconi
- C** because they like different music or radio programs
- D** to use electricity

4. What problem did radio stations face when television appeared? How did radio stations try to solve the problem?**5. What do you think the future of radio and television will be?**

Write two paragraphs and include details from the selection in your response.

Writing Prompt

Your favorite radio station is going off the air. Write an essay to persuade people to listen to the station. Use reasons to support your opinion.

